

Although a subscriber is identified by using a subscriber's ID number in the fourth exemplary embodiment of the present invention, a unique ID number of the recording/reproducing apparatus itself may be used instead of the subscriber's ID number. Similar effect is obtained in an information on demand system that an owner of the write/read device is discriminated from the unique ID number of the recording/reproducing apparatus itself and the charge is collected from the owner of the recording/reproducing apparatus.

The system can be also composed so that the server registers the title name of the program for a particular program and when the subscriber wants to write the title name, the terminal controller can check at the terminal controller if the subscriber is requesting a server's approval.

The charging system can be made so that the information can be reproduced by only a recording/reproducing apparatus which was used to record the audio/video information and by any other reproducing apparatus. In this case, the system is composed so that the descramble apparatus is connected to an arbitrary reproducing apparatus, the descramble apparatus certifies whether the medium in which the information was written has an approved ID number and only when reading from the medium certified by the descramble apparatus, the descramble apparatus performs normally.

According to an information on demand system in accordance with exemplary embodiments of the present invention, when a copy without any deterioration of sound/picture quality is made, a different charging system from usual charge can be set. Especially, when an analog signal is outputted to a recording/reproducing apparatus as they are, an audio/video information having almost same quality as the server's information is recorded in a recording medium of the recording/reproducing apparatus and it is significant to provide with three charging systems.

Because programs and informations are always recorded/written in recording medium based on a subscriber's ID number and a recording/reproducing apparatus ID number, it is possible to restrict a recording/reproducing apparatus used at reproducing.

The invention may be embodied in other specific form without departing from the spirit or essential characteristics thereof. The present embodiment is therefore to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive, the scope of the invention being indicated by the appended claims rather than by the foregoing description and all changes which come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are therefore intended to be embraced therein.

What is claimed:

1. An information on demand system comprising:
 - a server apparatus for providing information according to a request from a subscriber;
 - display means for displaying said information provided by said server apparatus; and
 - recording means for recording said information provided by said server apparatus;
 wherein a different amount is charged to said subscriber among a) in the case in which said information is provided to said display means, b) in the case in which said information is provided to said recording means and c) in the case in which said information is provided to said display means and to said recording means.
2. An information on demand system comprising:
 - information providing means for providing information according to a request from a subscriber;

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display means for displaying a further information signal
output from said information receiving means:

subscriber mode discriminating means for discriminating whether said further information signal of said information receiving means is provided to one of said display means and said recording means: 10

charging means for charging a different amount among a) in the case in which said further information is provided to said display means, b) in the case in which said further information is provided to said recording means and c) in the case in which said further information is provided to said display means and to said recording means according to an output of said subscriber mode discriminating means; and.

charge registering means for registering charge data out- 20
put from said charging means.

3. A server apparatus comprising:

subscriber identification means for reading an identifying information to identify a subscriber:

information providing means for providing information 25
according to a request from said subscriber.

subscriber mode recognizing means for discriminating whether said information providing means provides said information a) to a subscriber display means, b) to a subscriber recording means or c) to said subscriber display means and said subscriber recording means;

charging means for charging a different amount among a) in the case in which said information is provided to said subscriber display means, b) in the case in which said information is provided to said subscriber recording means and c) in the case in which said information is provided to said subscriber display means and to said subscriber recording means according to an output of said subscriber mode recognizing means; and

charge registering means provided for every subscriber for registering a charge data output from said charging means; and wherein said charge registering means accumulates the charge data output from said charging means at said charge registering means corresponding to said identifying information according to a discriminating information discriminated at said subscriber identification means.

4. A server apparatus comprising:

provided information designating means for providing 50
information requested by a subscriber to a server:

information receiving means for receiving said information provided by said server according to said subscriber request;

subscriber mode discriminating means for discriminating whether an information signal output from said information receiving means is provided a) to a display means, b) to a recording means or c) to both the display means and the recording means and informing said subscriber through said information receiving means.

5. A subscriber apparatus comprising:

information receiving means for receiving a provided information according to a request from a subscriber;

subscriber mode discriminating means for discriminating 65
whether a further information signal output from said
information receiving means is provided a) to a display

charging means for charging a different amount among a) in the case in which said further information is provided to said display means, b) in the case in which said further information is provided to said recording means and c) in the case in which said further information is provided to said display means and to said recording means according to an output of said subscriber mode discriminating means; and

6. A subscriber apparatus as recited in claim 5; wherein
15 the charge registering means periodically informs the sub-
scriber's charge to a server.

terminal control means for inputting a demodulated information signal of said demodulating means, outputting a signal to recording means which records said demodulated information signal in a recording medium in which a subscriber identification number is recorded and controlling supply of the output signal; and wherein

35 8. A subscriber apparatus as recited in claim 7; wherein
said demodulated information signal is not output to said
recording means, when the subscriber identification
number is not recorded in the recording medium of said
recording means.

45 10. A subscriber apparatus as recited in claim 9 wherein:
said subscriber is determined from the identification num-
ber of said recording means; and

11. A subscriber apparatus as recited in claim 10 wherein
50 when the subscriber records information provided from an
information providing apparatus, said information can not
be recorded unless the subscriber is approved by the server.

transmitting the information to at least one of a subscriber display means and a subscriber recording means for displaying and recording the information respectively.

65 wherein said request for information indicates whether the
subscriber is recording said information on said record-
ing means.

5 wherein said request for information indicates whether the subscriber is recording said information on said recording means. J

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1. The first step is to identify the problem. This involves understanding the current situation and the goals that need to be achieved.

1 ✓ 14. A recording medium for
2 recording information, said recording
3 medium comprising:

4 an identifier;

5 wherein said information is
6 recorded on said recording medium based
7 on a presence of said identifier; and

8 wherein recording of said
9 information on said recording medium
10 effects charges for said information.

1 ✓ 15. A recording medium,
2 comprising:

3 information; and

4 an identifier;

5 wherein said information is
6 recorded on said recording medium based
7 on a presence of said identifier; and

